

Hello my name is Jandin Miller speaking on behalf of Michigan Traditional Bowhunters.

We are opposed to HB 5740.

This bill is not bringing any more opportunities to hunters 65 years and older they don't already have. There is an early antlerless firearm season in September, firearm season in November, late antlerless and muzzleloader season in December. If they want to hunt in October they just need a bow or crossbow.

65 year olds are very capable of hunting with a bow or crossbow in archery season. My father is 66, hunts with traditional archery equipment, and climbs trees. We have had MTB members comment on this bill: Dennis said "I'm 70 and could hunt Michigan's prime time rifle season if I wanted to. Don't feel the need for an extra privileged season." Gary said "I'm 78 and I don't want someone with a rifle running around in the woods during my bow hunting."

We understand this is for private land only, but they do have neighbors. I live on a 10 acre parcel and the deer I hunt take a path through several of my neighbors properties. The patterns of those deer will change immediately after they are impacted by a firearm. They may not travel that same route again. New bowhunters already have a lot to learn about how to get close opportunities. The disruption of deer travel would turn a learning curve into a mountain to climb. I understand hunter numbers have declined and how that is an issue. Instead of trying to coax back hunters who have left the sport, wouldn't it be smarter to invest into our younger hunters? My daughter is 10 and she has been turkey hunting and cannot wait until she can go deer hunting.

This is also a safety issue. Archery season does not require blaze orange. Bullets don't stop at property lines.

This is a law-enforcement nightmare. By firearms just having a foot in the door of archery season we would see abuse beyond measure. Our Conservation Officers cannot be everywhere at once. Archery season overlaps with several other seasons: small game, waterfowl, bear, and salmon seasons. They are already spread thin!

Has the representative looked at how this will affect the resource? In 2021 over 107k hunting licenses were sold to hunters 65 and older. What is their success rate? More research is needed.

This should be petitioned to the NRC? HB 5740 is NOT needed, puts a strain on our CO's, it's a safety issue, damaging to new hunter recruitment, and has no clue on how it will affect the resource.

To comment on Representative Eisens opening comments. This "snowbird" bill seems silly to state that spending \$1,000 on crossbow is unfeasible for those who fly South to Florida for the winter to play golf.

And Representative Eisen said "Throw in a sunset clause. Give it a try!" I find that extremely irresponsible. More research is needed.